

[Application No. 09/621,830]

25²⁹/₃₈. (New) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim ¹³~~26~~, wherein the transfer is free of a binder adhesive between the flock and the thermosetting hot melt adhesive.

15¹⁵/₃₉. (New) The article of manufacture of Claim ¹⁴~~24~~, wherein the substrate comprises rubber.

27²⁶/₄₀. (New) The article of manufacture of Claim ²¹⁵~~39~~, further comprising a fringe material extending outwardly from peripheral edges of the substrate.

28¹²/₄₁. (New) The article of manufacture of Claim ¹²~~27~~, wherein the substrate comprises rubber.

29¹⁸/₄₂. (New) The article of manufacture of Claim ¹²~~41~~, further comprising a fringe material extending outwardly from peripheral edges of the substrate.

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

The Examiner has objected to Claim 1 and the drawings. Applicant has amended Claim 1, the drawings, and the specification to overcome these objections. By way of example, Fig. 3 is now

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mentioned, and Fig. 4 is now specifically referred to in the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15.

Reference character "5" now refers only to the release agent while reference character "7" refers to flock. Reference character 3 appears at page 5, line 7, and in the amended text.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended Claim 4 to overcome this rejection.

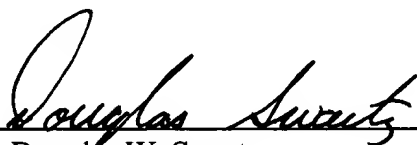
Applicant has also added new Claims 18-42. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 18 and 25 are allowable.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 5, line 15, as follows:

--An article of manufacture, such as an item of clothing having a transfer 1 applied thereto, a mouse pad, coaster, or other item having a flocked surface is easily produced using the transfer 1. Referring to FIGS. 2-5, [The] the article of manufacture 11 is produced by positioning a hot melt sheet 13 between a substrate 15 and the flocked release sheet. The hot melt sheet is, for example, a sheet of thermosetting polyester, available from Bostik, Inc. The hot melt sheet can also be made from a thermosetting polyurethane. Any other thermosetting film should also work well. The substrate can be an item of clothing, a rubber pad (for producing a mouse pad or coaster), etc. The hot melt sheet can be precut to correspond to the shape of the transfer 1. The transfer 1 is then positioned on the hot melt sheet with the flock 7[5] against the hot melt sheet 13. Heat is applied to the transfer through the release sheet to activate the hot melt sheet. The hot melt sheet then acts to both bind the flock 7[5] together and to adhere the flock 7[5] to the substrate 15. Preferably, to assemble the article, the flocked release sheet, the thermosetting film, and the substrate are brought together and passed through a heat-laminating press where the three parts are subject to temperature of about 300°F (about 150°C) and pressure (about 40-50 psi) for about 30 seconds. It has been found that medium-to-firm pressure has been most advantageous in providing for assembly of this type of plush flocked transfer. The pressure and heat will cause the hot melt film to adhere to the flock and the substrate. Additionally, the hot melt film will cross-link or cure, to give a strong attachment of the flock to the substrate.--

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 6, line 10, as follows:

--Articles, such as mouse pads or coaster, in which the entire top surface of the article is covered with the flocking can be produced on a continuous basis, as shown in [FIG. 5]FIGS. 3 and 5. Rolls 21, 23, and 25 of a flocked release sheet 1, the hot melt film 13, and the substrate 15 are provided. The three parts are brought together at a laminating station 33. Rollers can be provided in front of the station 33 so that the three elements are adjacent each other as they enter the laminating station. In the laminating station, heat and pressure are applied to the three sheets (the flocked release sheet, the hot melt film, and the substrate) to melt the hot melt film. The melted hot melt film will then cure or cross-link, as noted above, to adhere the flock to the substrate. A web 35 exits the laminating station. The web 35 is then allowed to cool. The web 35 is ultimately directed to a cutting station where it is cut into individual articles. Once the web 35 is cooled, it can be directed immediately to a cutting station (after the sheet 35 cools), or can it can be wound up on an uptake roller to be cut into individual articles at a later time, or at a different location. At the cutting station, the release sheet 3 is removed from the flock and gathered on an uptake roll or is otherwise disposed of. After the release sheet has been removed from the flock, the substrate with the flock adhered thereto is cut to form the articles 11. It is also likely that one could remove the

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release liner either before or after the die cutting procedure. As shown in FIG. 3, a fringe material 50 can be applied to peripheral edges of the flocked release sheet 1 or substrate 15 during this manufacturing process. --

In the Claims:

Claims 1-4 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A flocked transfer consisting essentially of a release sheet, a release agent on the release sheet, and flock on the release agent; the flock being formed in a desired pattern; the release agent holding the flock to the release sheet, wherein a thermosetting hot melt film is adhered to the transfer.
2. (Amended) An article of manufacture including the transfer of Claim 1, wherein the transfer is adhered to a substrate.
3. (Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 2, wherein the transfer is adhered to the substrate using [a]the thermosetting hot melt [sheet]film.
4. (Amended) The article of claim 3, wherein the thermosetting hot melt film is a thermosetting polyurethane film or a thermosetting polyester film.